UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/233
13 October 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL SUB-ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES, THE RESTORATION OF TOTAL PEACE, RECONSTRUCTION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WAR-STRICKEN RWANDA

Letter dated 13 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of the Government of Rwanda, and pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Emergency international assistance for a solution to the problem of refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in war-stricken Rwanda".

This matter would become a sub-item under agenda item 37, entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

The proposed sub-item on Rwanda is suitable for consideration in the Second Committee, under the question entitled "Emergency assistance for the socio-economic rehabilitation of Rwanda", which was a separate item on the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly (agenda item 171) and was the subject of Assembly resolution 48/211, dated 21 December 1993.

An explanatory memorandum in support of the above request accompanies this letter, in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this request, including the explanatory memorandum, to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

[Signed] Manzi BAKURAMUTSA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Rwanda
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

On the recommendation of the Second Committee, the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth regular session, decided that all questions relating to United Nations special economic assistance to Member States in need of such assistance should be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session under a single item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

Accordingly, in paragraph 45 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General which, for the consideration of the General Committee, gives the allocation of items (A/BUR/49/1), item 37 has four sub-items but fails to include certain questions relating to special economic assistance, including the question entitled "Emergency international assistance for a solution to the problem of refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in war-stricken Rwanda".

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda draws attention to the following considerations as grounds for the inclusion of a new sub-item entitled "Emergency international assistance for a solution to the problem of refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in war-stricken Rwanda" in the agenda of the forty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, under item 37:

(a) The long war in Rwanda (1990-1994) has brought about the destruction of socio-economic infrastructures, the collapse of basic services in all regions in which hostilities took place, the displacement of population groups on a massive scale and the exile of huge numbers of refugees;

(b) From the economic standpoint, everything needs to be done or redone, given the disastrous state of the agricultural sector, which comprises 96 per cent of the population, and the crumbling of Rwanda's fragile industrial base, together with the destruction on a considerable scale of socio-economic and administrative equipment and facilities;

(c) From the standpoint of human resources, the tragedy of genocide and other human losses has deprived the country of many development agents. In addition to this tragedy, there is the pitiful situation of thousands of war-displaced persons and millions of refugees, requiring subsidies of many kinds and resettlement;

(d) The signing of the Arusha Peace Agreement in the United Republic of Tanzania on 4 August 1993 continues to provide legal and political foundations for a new era of peace and national reconciliation which would enable the Rwandese people to work towards reconstruction and national development;

(e) In humanitarian terms, the situation is even more disastrous than it was when the Department of Humanitarian Affairs launched the Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Rwanda in favour of displaced persons;

(f) This inter-agency appeal, which has helped to improve the humanitarian situation in Rwanda, merits the renewed manifestation of increased generosity on the part of the international community, in view of the tremendous need for food and infrastructure and the other inevitable requirements of the post-war period;

(g) Because of the magnitude of the work to be done pursuant to the Arusha Peace Agreement, the Security Council, in its resolution 872 (1993) of 5 October 1993, urged Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide and intensify their economic, financial and humanitarian assistance in favour of the Rwandese population and of the democratization process in Rwanda;

(h) Since the war has undermined all economic development efforts, and since this post-war period demands national reconciliation, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and development, urgent action on the part of the international community is required to advance the economic and social rehabilitation of Rwanda. Various forms of assistance are all the more urgent in that the new post-war situation calls for the deployment of substantial resources which are beyond Rwanda's capacity to provide;

(i) The assistance requested will enable Rwanda to implement the relevant provisions of the aforementioned Peace Accord, to revitalize the economy, to consolidate national reconciliation, to reconstruct and rehabilitate the various infrastructures destroyed, to resettle the displaced persons and refugees, where they belong; in short, it will permit the socio-economic rehabilitation of Rwanda to be effected in pursuit of self-development.